



SENT TO COUNCIL:

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# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Terry Roberts

**SUBJECT:** New City Hall Rotunda - Update

**DATE:** 2-4-05

Approved

Date

2/4/05

Council District: Citywide

SNI: University



The New San José Civic Center

## INFORMATION

On January 28, 2005 an informational memorandum regarding the construction status of the new City Hall was forwarded to Council. This memorandum provides an update on construction of the Rotunda. Starting Monday, February 7, we have authorized the contractor to work extended hours to keep the rotunda work on schedule. Most of the evening work will consist of welding, which is not expected to adversely impact the neighborhood. Information material has already been distributed to the community advising them of the change.

As you know, the rotunda is a complex structure that requires extremely precise alignment. The dome consists of 1056 pieces of custom cut glass. The glass will be attached to a system of cables that hangs from the support structure. There are 350 brackets that anchor the glass and cable support system to the main structural support beams and over 4000 points where the glass connects to the cable support system. In all, there are nearly 3 miles of steel cable supporting the glass.

To ensure that the dome is structurally sound and water tight, the pieces of glass must fit exactly, which means that the glass, anchor bracket connectors, and cable support system must be constructed to overall tolerances of about 1/8 inch. Some of the cable support system is

suspended 100' in the air. This requires very precise surveying, calculations for temperature fluctuations in the material, and material fabrication.

Due to its complexity the fabrication and installation of portions of the rotunda have taken longer than expected. Installation of the connector brackets is underway. The cabling system will begin installation around the beginning of March. Glass installation is now expected to occur during the April/May time period. While this is later than anticipated, extended hours have been very successful in keeping other elements of the project on schedule in the past. Over the next 3 to 4 weeks we will better be able to determine if the rotunda delivery date will be affected. It's important to note that a delay in the rotunda schedule would not impact the move schedule. There are several other strategies staff and the JV are evaluating to minimize any possible rotunda schedule impacts.

The tower, Council wing, and plaza delivery schedules remain unchanged by this work and are on track for delivery and move-in as scheduled beginning with furniture and equipment in late April with employees beginning to move in June.

We will keep the Mayor and Council advised as more information becomes available over the next several weeks. In the meantime we plan to organize more tours as the cable and glass are installed so you can see first hand how this very exciting, complex, one-of-a-kind glass dome and supporting structure are being built.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Roberts', with a stylized, flowing script.

TERRY ROBERTS  
Deputy City Manager